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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/580,880	03/05/2007	Ronald Perry	1567-5 PCT/US	7308
23869	7590	04/01/2009	EXAMINER	
Hoffmann & Baron, LLP			PICKETT, JOHN G	
6900 JERICHO TURNPIKE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SYOSSET, NY 11791			3728	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			04/01/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/580,880	PERRY, RONALD	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	J. Gregory Pickett	3728	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 May 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/25/06</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

1. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

Non-initialed and/or non-dated alterations have been made to the oath or declaration. See 37 CFR 1.52(c).

It does not identify the citizenship of each inventor.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

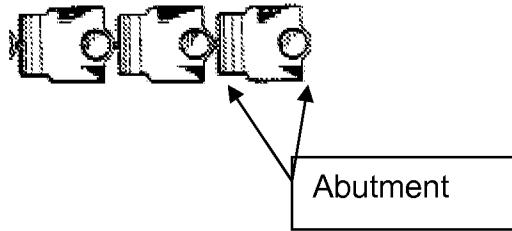
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 6, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Howells (Des. 367,604).

1,6: As shown and readily discernable to one of ordinary skill in the art, Howells discloses an array of clips comprising a first and second clip; connecting element; channel; and abutment (see below).



2: The clip of Howells is provided with two legs interconnected by a retaining body (see Figure 1).

3, 12: The connecting element of Howells is arranged as claimed.

10, 11: Howells discloses a securing member.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 4, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howells (Des. 367,604) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Merritt (US 4,903,920).

4: Howells, as applied to claim 2 above, discloses the claimed invention except for the widened portion. However, Merritt teaches a widened portion 54 on a leg of a clip for better retention of a wire/cord and for said purpose, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the clips of Howells with widened portions.

8, 9: Howells, as applied to claim 2 above, discloses the claimed invention except for the protruding portion. However, Merritt teaches a widened portion 50a (Figure 2a) on a retaining body of a clip for separation of multiple wires/cords and for said purpose, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the clips of Howells with a protruding portion.

4. Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howells (Des. 367,604) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Keffeler et al (US 7,097,037).

Howells, as applied to claim 2 above, discloses the claimed invention except for the protruding abutment ear. However, Keffeler teaches protruding abutments 66/68 at a fracture location to enhance the fracturing effect, and for said purpose, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the clips of Howells with a protruding abutment ears.

5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howells (Des. 367,604) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Ernst et al (US 5,069,340).

Howells, as applied to claim 2 above, discloses the claimed invention except for the notched connecting member. However, Ernst teaches the provision of notches 80/82/84/86 in connecting elements 74 to encourage fracture at a particular location,

and for said purpose, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the connecting elements of Howells with notches.

6. Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howells (Des. 367,604).

14-16: Howells, as applied above discloses the claimed structures, but does not expressly disclose the manner of usage of the device. However, under the principles of inherency, if a prior art device, in its normal and usual operation, would necessarily perform the method claimed, then the method claimed will be considered to be anticipated by the prior art device. When the prior art device is the same as a device described in the specification for carrying out the claimed method, it can be assumed the device will inherently perform the claimed process. *In re King*, 801 F.2d 1324, 231 USPQ 136 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Gregory Pickett whose telephone number is 571-272-4560. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 11:30 AM - 8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on 571-272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. Gregory Pickett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3728